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--This application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 08/899,410 filed July 23, 1997, now pending which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/481,685, filed June 7, 1995, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part application of U.S. Application No. 08/082,226, filed June 24, 1993, now abandoned.--

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18, 20 and ~~21~~ are pending in this application. No amendments to the claims have been made in this response.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's action with respect to the prior rejection under 35 USC §112.

Applicants have amended the specification under the section "Background of the Invention" to show the entire file history of related applications.

Rejection Under 35 USC §102

Claims 17 and 21 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as being anticipated by Babrowicz, U.S. Patent No. 5,837,335.

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Application No. 08/899,410 filed July 23, 1997, which is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 08/481,685, filed June 7, 1995 which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Application No. 08/082,226, filed June 24, 1993.

During the prosecution of U.S. Application No. 08/481,685, the following amendment was made to the specification:

"In the Specification:

At page 1, after the title, please add the following paragraph:

This application is a continuation-in-part application which claims priority from prior filed, copending application serial no. 08/082,226, filed June 24, 1993, now abandoned."

The above amendment was part of a response submitted on August 22, 1996 to the Office. A copy of the response is attached as Exhibit A. Therefore, the instant application, U.S. Application No. 09/369,980, is entitled to the benefit of the June 24, 1993 filing date of U.S. Application No. 08/082,226. Accordingly, based on the remarks presented above Babrowicz, U.S. Patent No. 5,837,335 is not a proper reference.

24 covered
21/653,520
check
for
claimed matter
on prior art
done

Rejection Under 35 USC §103(a)

Claims 18 and 20 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Babrowicz, U.S. Patent No. 5,837,335.

Please see applicants' previous remarks regarding this reference.

In view of the above amendment to the specification and the accompanying remarks, applicants believe that all rejections which were contained in the Office Action have been overcome. Therefore allowance of the pending claims is respectfully solicited.

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